



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
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“NO-ZONE” DEMONSTRATION

The North Dakota Highway Patrol, Minot Public Schools, and Key Energy Services, recognizing the need to educate drivers about the blind spots around large commercial motor vehicles, will be hosting a “No-Zone” demonstration at Minot High School’s driving range on October 15-16.

The public is invited to attend and learn more about the “No Zone” on October 15-16 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Minot Public Schools Driving range located between Jim Hill Middle School and Duane Carlson Stadium.

With increased truck traffic in our area due to the increase in oil exploration, accidents between passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles have increased. The “No-Zone” demonstration is designed to teach motorists, especially driver education students, safe driving techniques to utilize when driving around large commercial vehicles.

The “No-Zone” safe driving tips offered are:

- **Passing** – When cars cut in too soon after passing, then abruptly slow down, truck drivers are forced to compensate with little time or room to spare. Because it takes longer to pass a large vehicle, you should maintain a consistent speed when passing and be sure you can see the cab of the truck in your rear view mirror before pulling in front.
- **Rear Blind Spots** – Unlike cars, trucks have deep blind spots directly behind them. Avoid tailgating in this No-Zone. The truck driver can’t see your car in this position and your own view of traffic is severely reduced. Following too closely greatly increases your chance of a rear-end collision with a truck.

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- **Side Blind Spots** – Trucks have much larger blind spots on both sides of their vehicles than passenger vehicles (cars). When you drive in these blind spots for any length of time, you can't be seen by truck drivers. If a commercial driver needs to change lanes quickly for any reason, a serious crash could occur with the vehicle in this No-Zone.
- **Wide Turns** – Truck drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left or right in order to safely negotiate a turn. They cannot see cars directly behind or beside them. Cutting in between the commercial vehicle and the curb, shoulder, or center line increases the possibility of a crash.
- **Backing Up** – Never pass close behind a truck that is preparing to back up or is in the process of backing up. Trailers can completely hide objects that suddenly come between them and a loading area. So if you try to pass behind the truck, you enter a blind spot for you and the truck driver.

The "No- Zone" program is designed to encourage and motivate motorists to modify their driving attitudes and behavior. Studies suggest that a reduction in crashes involving cars and commercial vehicles may be possible if motorists are made aware of blind spots and other limitations associated with trucks, buses and other large commercial vehicles. These actions are being undertaken in support of the goal to reduce North Dakota's accident and fatality rate.

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